

dunes. The large number permits a few young turtles to successfully run the gauntlet of predators and adverse weather conditions to reach the sea. Man's love of the motorcar has added yet another burden by loss of habitat. The National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development have taken active steps to help wildlife in the kingdom.

SHORT COMMUNICATION

Pandivirilia (Psilocephala) melaleuca (Loew) (Diptera: Therevidae) new to Gloucestershire.—A therevid larva was found while searching through cuboidal red-rotten heartwood in a fallen oak trunk in Hailey Wood, Cirencester Park, Glos., (SO962003), on 26.iii.1993. The only therevid known to breed in this situation in Britain is *Pandivirilia melaleuca*. The red-rot was extensively galleried but little else was found other than a few beetles—*Cis pygmaeus* (Marsh.) and *Mycetophagus piceus* (F.), species which are well-known to breed in this situation. The fungal agency is likely to have been *Laetiporus sulphureus* (Bull. ex Fr.).

This fly has mainly been recorded from the Windsor Forest area, but Allen (1981) has reported finding a larva in Greenwich Park in March 1980, also in red-rot in an old oak. At Windsor, it mainly breeds in red-rotten oak, but has occasionally been found in rotten beech and once in ash (Owen, 1993).

In addition to my own, I am aware of a number of other recent records of therevid larvae from rotten heartwood: Richmond Park, Surrey, in very dry powdery rotten oak exposed after the 1987 gale (Owen, 1993); one in a fallen oak in Bushy Park, Middlesex, J. A. Owen and P. J. Hodge (in Owen, 1993); one in a moribund pollard ash at a Worcestershire locality, 11.iii.1989 (P. F. Whitehead, pers. comm.), and A. P. Fowles (*pers. comm.*) has found what also appears to be a therevid larva within red-rot in an oak at a locality in Cardiganshire. It begins to seem that this rare relict old forest species actually occurs across a large area of southern Britain. The recent spate of records perhaps reflects an increased interest in Diptera by coleopterists—the larval habitat is one more likely to be investigated for beetles than for flies!

I would like to record my thanks to Alan Stubbs for his comments on my larva, to Martin Drake for information from the Larger Brachycera Recording Scheme, and to Paul Whitehead and Adrian Fowles for permission to mention their records.—K. N. A. Alexander, 14 Partridge Way, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 1BQ.

REFERENCES

- Allen, A. A. 1981. *Psilocephala melaleuca* (Loew) (Dipt., Therevidae) apparently surviving in S.E. London. *Entomologist's Mon. Mag.* 117: 256.
Owen, J. A. 1993. Rearing *Psilocephala melaleuca* (Loew) (Diptera: Therevidae) from larvae. *Entomologist's Rec. J. Var.* 105: 257–259.